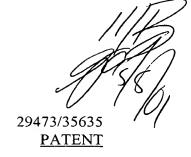




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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8:
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) April 20, 2001
) Nabeela R. McMillian) Reg. No. 43,363) Agent for Applicants

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 21, 2000

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to an Official Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on December 21, 2000. This response is due on April 23, 2001 by virtue of the attached petition and fee for a one month extension of time to respond and by virtue of the fact that April 21, 2001 was a Saturday. No additional fees are believed to be due, however, should any fees be deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this document the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any such fees from Marshall O'Toole Gerstein Murray and Borun account number 13-2855.

In light of the amendments and remarks presented below, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections and favorable reconsider of the application.